



COUNCILMEMBER DONNA FRYE

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – SIXTH COUNCIL DISTRICT

Press Release

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FRYE CALLS FOR EXPEDITED DECISION TO RESOLVE LEGALITY OF PENSION BENEFITS

Today, City Councilwoman Donna Frye called on Mayor Murphy to convene a special Saturday session of the Council to resolve the City's pension fund crisis by seeking an expedited Court decision on the legality of the pension benefits.

Citing the need to avoid a looming financial, legal, and moral "train wreck," Frye suggested that the council move expeditiously to resolve the matter.

"We cannot afford to wait any longer for a resolution," Frye said. "There comes a time, in every crisis, when disaster can be avoided. For the City of San Diego, that time is now. To wait until all of the investigations are resolved risks not just financial calamity, but also the permanent alienation of our citizens," she said.

Frye continued, "Either the current pension funds are legal or they are not. More legal opinions, more debates, more discussions, more consultants, and more expensive legal bills will not lead anywhere but to more civic paralysis. On behalf of the taxpayers, the city workers and their families, the pension board members, and the bond houses funding our debts, we must resolve this issue in a court of law.

"I am today, not only asking for the Special Saturday session of the Council to address the matter, but requesting that Mayor Murphy (a former judge) and City Attorney Aguirre (a former U.S. Attorney) sit down together and fashion a way to file an action of declaratory relief to determine which of the conflicting city attorney opinions correctly resolves the issue of the legality of the pension."

“We need to get our house in order now and we need to do it quickly in a court of law. In short, I am asking the Mayor, City Council and City Attorney to find a way to get to court and seek some sort of declaratory relief in the pension fund debate.”

“There is an old Latin proverb that says, ‘Truth is the daughter of time.’ Time will tell who was right in this crisis, but now we need resolution.”